

When “Yes” is “Oh No!” and “No” is “Oh Yes!”

Matthew 13:44-46

May 26, 2024

Is the Jesus Way Hard?

The way to “glorify Jesus” is to adopt His way of the cross
Taking up our crosses, denying ourselves sounds like such a downer
We often paint Christianity in terms of benefits and not costs
Does in fact Jesus call us to a “hard” road?
“Hard” is only meaningful in light of the greater context
Two economic scenarios compared. Which is the “hard one”?
Every decision made by every human is a cost/benefit evaluation
All humans choose the path of perceived better benefit
Bad decisions are those when that perception is off!
C.S. Lewis in *The Weight of Glory* (see below)
Christianity is marked by invitations that appear as more cost than benefit
Only to find the benefits far overwhelm the cost!
The all-important muscle of delayed gratification
When “no” is “oh yes!” and “yes” is “oh no!”
The parable of the kingdom: the treasure and the pearl: **Matthew 13:44-46**
Jesus, for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising its shame: **Hebrews 12:2**
I have counted all things loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus: **Philippians 3:8**
Whom have I in heaven besides You? Besides You I desire nothing on earth! **Psalms 73:25**
Where else shall we go? You alone have the words of life: **John 6:68**
Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb! **Revelation 19:9**

The Parable of Marriage

The nature of saying “Yes” is to say “No” to every other potential
The confined chamber of the marriage covenant lies the wide-eyed seed
The gun chamber: the narrowness is the secret to its power
The way of the cross leads out into the wide fields of joy
Celebrating this principle in the vows of Michael and Geeta today

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” C.S. Lewis, **The Weight of Glory**